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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	USSR	REPORT	
SUBJECT	1. Government Measures to Retain Popular Support 2. Resistance Activities and Potential	DATE DISTR.	30 September 1954
DATE OF INFO.		NO. OF PAGES	6
PLACE ACQUIRED		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
		REFERENCES	25X1

This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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Comments

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1. Turkmanestan, page 3, should read Turkmenistan.
2. Benderovtsy, page 4, should read Banderovtsy.

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ARMY review completed.

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(NOTE: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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**SECRET****REPORT**

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**COUNTRY USSR****DATE DISTR. 31 August 1954**

**SUBJECT** 1. Government Measures to Retain Popular Support  
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1. After the death of STALIN, Communist leaders issued a proclamation which was printed in newspapers and read at all Party meetings. This proclamation stated that the Soviet government was about to embark on a new system of economic-political reforms called the "New Course" ("Novyy Kurs"). Theoretically, the "New Course" was to entail drastic modifications in consumer goods, luxuries, wages, and prices. All food and clothing prices were to be reduced 10% while wages were to be increased by 10%. Scarce items were to be made available to consumers and heavy industry was to be curtailed in favor of light industry and home construction. The end result of the "New Course" was to be an overall rise in the Soviet standard of living.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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smoothly and efficiently. The only hostile element, the BERIA faction, had been successfully liquidated and Party rule had been consolidated to such an extent that there was no possibility of disturbances from within Party ranks or from the Soviet populace.

[redacted] the "New Course" was an empty promise and summarized the current situation in the USSR as follows: "Why should the government keep any of its promises? People of any importance in the USSR live very well, and the others, the so-called masses, do not expect something which they never had. The average person believes that he is very fortunate that things are generally good, and, remembering the war years, believes that he could be worse off." The government, immediately after the death of STALIN, was afraid of a general factional split in the Party, uprisings, etc. When they did not come about, apparently plans for the "New Course," having outlived their usefulness, were scrapped as having been a good psychological move at the right time.

## 2. Factors Generating Reaction to Soviet Regime

[redacted] factors which caused the Soviet people to be against their government or in favor of it.

### a. Social

[redacted] social factors as a cause for dissatisfaction with the regime were of negligible importance. The people were told that in the existent stage of Communist development (i.e., the so-called "dictatorship of the proletariat") leadership by the intelligentsia was a necessity. The people took the statement for granted, believing that their status quo was inevitable. [redacted] the fact that people were aware that living conditions under the Soviet regime had improved over those existing during the reign of the czars [redacted] it tended to offset social dissatisfaction among the masses.

### b. Economic

[redacted] the economic status of the USSR was poor in comparison to that in Western Bloc nations. However, he noted that the average Soviet citizen had no yardstick against which he could place his standard of living except the lower standards of czarist times. As long as the citizen could make purchases at the Soviet stores, he felt contented.

On the other hand, many inhabitants of the Ukraine and republics bordering on the West have had opportunities to compare their economic status to that of the Western nations. This caused great dissatisfaction and gave rise to resistance movements/see below/.

[redacted] since World War II there had been six decreases in the price of food and clothing items and an equal number of increases in wage rates for industrial workers and army personnel. To balance these changes, there were increases in work norms and in some instances workers put in a greater proportional amount of work. Another device used to give the citizens a false feeling of rising standards was to make substantial cuts in prices of scarce or unavailable items.

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## c. Ethnic

[redacted] political, personal and religious persecution were not as dominant in causing anti-regime feelings as the subjugation of the various nationalities in the USSR. [redacted] the greatest resentment was felt by the peoples of the Ukraine, Latvia, Lithuania, former Rumanian territories and, to some extent, by the various tribes of Turkmanestan. [redacted] since the suppression moves by the MVD and MGB in 1947, organized resistance among these peoples is nonexistent and open dissatisfaction is not manifested. [redacted] the possibility of the continued existence of strong, deep-seated, anti-government sentiment.

3. Attempts to Pacify the People of the USSR

[redacted] the "New Course", as outlined above, was the only means employed by the Communist Party and government to pacify the Soviet people after the death of STALIN. [redacted] the "New Course" was an attempted modification of the last five-year plan which has had no noticeable political or social repercussions.

4. [redacted]  
5. [redacted]

6. Deterrents to Dissidence

[redacted] collectivization of land and industry provided more work for the inhabitants of the USSR and the opening of free and progressive educational institutions had given younger people opportunities which were unknown in czarist Russia. [redacted] these two things were deterrents to dissidence and dissatisfaction, especially when the people who benefit from them have nothing with which to compare them except the conditions that existed before the Soviet regime. [redacted] there had been no changes in collectivization and education since the coming to power of the MALENKOV regime.

7. Trends in the Nature of Dissidence

[redacted] after the elimination of the BERIA faction, the regime was able to move on without threat or opposition. [redacted] the name MALENKOV would gradually completely replace that of STALIN and even though the change was taking place slowly, its progress was smooth and efficient.

Since the general Party line was not altered much after the death of STALIN [redacted] national opinion had not changed either way and [redacted] there was no noticeable increase or decrease of dissidence.

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- 4 -**8. Deterrents to Organized Resistance Movements**

[redacted] there were many reasons why opposition to the regime could not be organized and made to function. Some of these were fear of the police, lack of strong spirit, and lack of definite goals. One of the major detriments to organized resistance was the inability of the various nationalities to band together in a united front. This, plus the fact that the army and MVD quickly retaliated against any acts of organized resistance, was the possible reason for lack of spirit.

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**9. Resistance Activities**

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**a. Benderovtsy Movement**

This movement was organized in the Ukraine and Moldavia during the period 1945-1948. Its ultimate goal was to set up an independent Ukrainian Republic. At the beginning it was well-equipped, well-organized, and had good leadership. In 1948, the Soviet government sent in army and MVD units that effectively wiped out the group to such an extent that it never reorganized.

**b. Zelenyye Brat'ya Movement (Green Brothers)**

This movement was organized during World War II in the Estonian SSR by patriots. The specific aim was to aid Germans in driving out the Soviet army and Soviet officials. After the war its organized units devoted most of their efforts to attacking army units, warehouses, and collective farms. In some cases, they even carried out assassinations of government officials. In 1949, Soviet MVD and army units wiped out all active organized resistance in Estonia, including the Zelenyye Brat'ya movement. However,

[redacted] a train  
[redacted] had been attacked by partisans  
[redacted] in the fall of 1952.

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**c. Existence of Resistance Groups in the USSR**

[redacted] no organized resistance groups  
[redacted] existed in the USSR at present.

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**10. Unorganized Resistance Groups**

[redacted] unorganized resistance groups offering passive  
resistance to the regime did exist in the USSR. [redacted]  
[redacted] it was impossible to quote a reason-  
able percentage of the population falling into such groups.

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**11. Tactics Employed by the Regime to Curb Resistance Activities**

[redacted] strict control of the press, educational facilities  
and cultural activities, and an efficient secret police system were  
the main weapons used to counter dissidence and curb resistance activi-  
ties.

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12. Examples

- a. [ ] a student [ ] was sent to 25X1  
Moldavia with a group of other students for the purpose of help- 25X1  
ing collective farm officials obtain the government's share of  
the grain crop in the fall of 1949. The students were armed with  
carbines and SMG's and were aided by MVD and local militia. Dur-  
ing the drive, the peasants of an unidentified small town killed  
a militiaman. In reprisal, the inhabitants were moved from the 25X1  
town and sent to another part of the USSR [ ] 25X1  
[ ] Their homes were burned in the presence of people from  
other villages in the area. No further information. 25X1

- b. [ ] the Magadan Labor Camp. [ ]  
[ ] The camp was located in  
the city of Magadan /N 59-34, E 15-48/ and during the years  
1947-1951 had an average of 1,000 political prisoners who were  
all transients. The prisoners were employed as miners and rail-  
road workers. 25X1  
[ ]

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